



## Primer – What does the Rockfish Pilot Program Do?

The Rockfish Pilot Program is a 2-year project that allows harvesters to form voluntary cooperatives and receive an exclusive harvest privilege for groundfish species in the Central Gulf of Alaska (GOA). Processors can form associations with inshore harvester cooperatives for exclusive processing opportunities. The Program uses the 1996-2002 Central GOA rockfish fishery harvests to establish catch histories. Catch history is based on vessels with landings of Central GOA rockfish that gave rise to limited license permits (LLPs). Catch history entitles Program participants to a proportion of the total allowable catch (TAC) for specific rockfish species, and potentially a portion of the TAC for some incidentally caught species, and use halibut prohibited species catch (PSC). LLP holders with catch history would have their LLPs modified with a Program endorsement. Each year, LLP holders can choose to join a cooperative, limited access fishery, or opt-out of the Program with their catch history.

A **cooperative** receives an exclusive harvest privilege based on the sum of the rockfish catch history of the LLPs assigned to the cooperative by its members. LLP holders can receive an exclusive harvest privilege on an annual basis only by joining a cooperative. LLP holders with a catcher/processor (C/P) designation can only form cooperatives with other C/P LLP holders. LLP holders with a catcher vessel (CV) designation can only form cooperatives with other CV LLP holders. Alternatively, LLP holders can choose to fish in a **limited access fishery** within a sector (C/P or CV). The limited access fishery comprises the annual catch amount for the Program that is left after C/P or CV cooperatives form. Finally, LLP holders in the C/P sector can choose to **“opt-out”** of most of the aspects of the Program.

The Program allocates rockfish in the Central GOA, associated secondary species, and an amount of halibut PSC that can be used while fishing under the Program. The CV and C/P sector receive different annual allocations according to the following table.

Central GOA Species	CV Cooperatives	CV Limited Access	C/P Cooperatives	C/P Limited Access	C/P “Opt-out”
<b>Primary Species – (95 % of the TAC)</b> Pacific ocean perch (POP); pelagic shelf and northern rockfish	Exclusive allocation	CV sector limit (non-co-op)	Exclusive allocation	C/P sector limit (non-co-op)	Prohibited from directed fishing in the Central GOA rockfish fishery.
Secondary Species – <b>Based on catch history in July from 1996-2002</b> thornyhead	Exclusive allocation	Reduced incidental catch – Maximum Retainable Amount (MRA)	Exclusive allocation	Reduced MRA	Current MRA
Shortraker & rougheye rockfish	Reduced MRA	Reduced MRA	Exclusive allocation	Reduced MRA	Current MRA
Trawl sablefish	Exclusive allocation	Reduced MRA	Exclusive allocation	Reduced MRA	Current MRA
Pacific cod	Exclusive allocation	Reduced MRA	Reduced MRA	Reduced MRA	Current MRA
<b>Halibut mortality usage (PSC)</b>	Exclusive allocation	Current GOA PSC limits	Exclusive allocation	Current GOA PSC limits	Current GOA PSC limits

Use caps limit the amount of catch history an LLP holder can have. Catch history cannot be separated from an LLP once it is assigned, effectively limiting the number of LLPs a person can hold. Use caps also limit the amount of fish a cooperative and C/P vessel can harvest.

Cooperatives within a sector can transfer allocated fish among each other, up to use cap limits. Two C/P LLP holders are required to form a C/P cooperative. CV LLP holders can form cooperatives only in association with a specific group of eligible processors in Kodiak to whom they have delivered a majority of their catch. Rockfish and other associated groundfish harvested by cooperatives or under the limited access fishery must be delivered to this group of eligible processors in Kodiak.

Five percent (2.5 % to trawl gear, 2.5% to fixed gear) of the Central GOA rockfish TAC is allocated to an entry-level fishery for LLP holders who do not have catch history. Processors that aren't qualified to receive cooperative and limited access fish can receive entry-level rockfish.

The Program establishes a suite of sideboards that limit LLP holders participating in the Program from expanding their harvests in other fisheries. **Sideboards apply only in July. Sideboards are limits, NOT allocations.** There are two broad categories of sideboards – those that establish catch limits, and those that prohibit directed fishing. Catch limits are divided further into (1) limits on harvests in other GOA rockfish fisheries; and (2) halibut PSC limits on the amount of halibut mortality that can be used in GOA flatfish fisheries. Once sideboard limits are reached, directed fisheries are closed. **Sideboards would apply in State waters in the “parallel” fishery.** The table below summarizes those sideboards.

July Sideboard Limit	CV Sector	C/P Cooperatives	C/P Limited Access	C/P “Opt-out”
<b>Catch limits:</b> Western GOA POP; pelagic shelf and northern rockfish	CV Sector limit – a collective CV limit for each species in each region	Co-op specific limit for each species in each region	C/P sector limit – a collective limit for all non-co-op C/Ps for each species in each region.	
West Yakutat POP; pelagic shelf and northern rockfish				
BSAI Pacific cod	CV Sector limit	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Halibut mortality limits:</b> Western GOA (1) Shallow-water limit, & (2) Deep-water limit	CV Sector limit: (1) shallow-water flatfish closed in that region when limit reached; (2) deep water flatfish closes in that region when limit reached.	C/P Co-op specific limit: (1) shallow-water flatfish closed in that region when limit reached; (2) deep water flatfish closes in that region when limit	C/P Non-co-op Sector limit: (1) shallow-water flatfish closed in that region when limit reached; (2) deep water flatfish closes in that region when limit reached.	
Central GOA (1) Shallow-water limit, & (2) Deep-water limit				
West Yakutat District (1) Shallow-water limit, & (2) Deep-water limit				
<b>Prohibited fishing:</b> BSAI groundfish (except pollock and IFQ sablefish)	July 1 - 31 prohibited fishing for most flatfish and rockfish	July 1- July 14	From July 1- until C/Ps harvest 90% of the CGOA POP.	N/A
GOA groundfish (except pollock and IFQ sablefish)	N/A	N/A ** (Assuming monitoring requirements met)	(Only for C/Ps with more than 5% of the total C/P POP history)	July 1 - July 14 – unless past activity